

REMARKS

In response to the final Official Action of December 28, 2005, minor correction has been made in the specification, claims 1 and 16 have been amended and claims 17-20 are newly submitted.

Referring to the Detailed Action, it is noted that the objection to claim 1 as recited in the previous Official Action has been withdrawn.

Art Rejection:

Claims 1-7, 10-15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of US patent 6,422,766, Althaus et al (hereinafter Althaus) in view of previously cited US patent 5,065,226, Kluitmans et al (hereinafter Kluitmans).

Although claim 15 is included in this registration, it is believed that this inclusion is in error since claim 15 was previously withdrawn.

With respect to claim 1, Althaus is cited as disclosing the structure recited except for conductor tracks which are impedance-matched. With regard to that feature, the Examiner cites Kluitmans with respect to a microstrip line as recited at column 9, lines 33-49. Applicant's attorney respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 1 as so recited.

More particularly, as stated at page 2 of the final Official Action, Althaus shows a circuit board (227') (Figure 12), which has a recess that is alleged to be the white open space in Figure 13. A reading of Althaus at column 1, lines 60-61 states that element (227') is a carrier plate, but there is no indication that this carrier plate has a recess formed therein as shown by the white open space shown in Figure 13. A view of carrier plate (227') in Figure 12 shows it to be a flat plate with no recess. In fact, the laser module housing (226') is indicated in Althaus as formed by carrier plate (227'), a piece of pipe (228), and a top plate (229) (see Althaus column 11, lines 20-23). Pipe (228) is

clearly positioned over carrier plate (227') and is not formed within this carrier plate. Contrariwise, the disclosed circuit board of the present invention as set forth in amended claim 1 comprises different multiple layers of insulation material and intermediate layers of metal with an integral recess formed therein containing an opening (3) and a bottom (4) on which conducting tracks (10) are installed.

In order to make clear that the recess is formed as an integral part of circuit board (1), claim 1 has therefore been amended to recite that the recess is an integral recess. Support for this amendment is found in the original specification and drawings, including page 4, lines 1-17, as well as Figure 1.

Kluitmans does not make up for this deficiency in Althaus and therefore the combination of Althaus with Kluitmans does not disclose or suggest amended claim 1.

Since amended claim 1 is believed to be distinguished over Althaus in view of Kluitmans, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-6, 10-13 and 16 are further distinguished over Kluitmans due to their ultimate dependency from amended claim 1.

Claim 16 has been amended to make clear that the metallic surfaces are actually first and second metallic surfaces. This amendment is supported by Figure 7 and the specification, including page 6, lines 13-27.

Newly submitted claim 17 recites a device for sending or receiving optical signals which further points out and claims that each end of each impedance-matched conductor is positioned on the contact surface so as to connect to contacts on a circuit board so as to be connectible to contacts on a circuit board. Support for this newly submitted claim is found in the specification and drawings of the present application, including page 7, lines 1-15, as well as Figure 8.

Neither Althaus nor Kluitmans discloses a device wherein each end of each impedance-matched conductor is positioned on a contact surface so as to be connectible

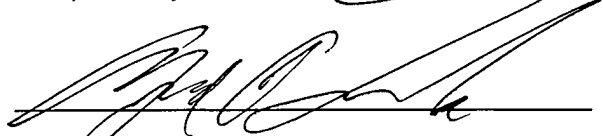
to contacts on a circuit board and for this reason as well, newly submitted claim 17 is believed to be distinguished over the cited art.

Newly submitted claim 18 depends from claim 17 and further recites that the device for sending or receiving optical signals further comprises peripheral elements in cooperative engagement with the transducer and that these peripheral elements are installed on the bottom of the circuit board so as to be planarly aligned with the transducer along the bottom of the circuit board. This is clearly seen in Figure 8 of the application. This feature is further distinguished over the cited art which clearly shows that the peripheral elements associated with the transducer are not positioned at the bottom of the circuit board in a planar configuration but rather are presented in a three-dimensional structure, such as seen in Figures 2 and 3 of Althaus.

Newly submitted claims 19 and 20 are further distinguished over Althaus in view of Kluitmans.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alfred A. Fressola', written over a horizontal line.

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